(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs has informed that as per entry 54, List II in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, sales tax is a State subject. Therefore, any concession in this regard can be granted by State Governments only.

SSIs Role in Economy

1780. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the role played by the small scale industries in the economy today;

(b) how it differs from the role played in seventies and eighties;

(c) whether its role has diminished due to liberalisation of the economy; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The small scale industries have been playing a significant role in the Indian economy in terms of industrial production, employment generation and exports.The role of the SSI sector has not changed since the seventies and eighties. At present, the SSI sector contributes 39% of industrial production, 34% in national exports and provided employment to over 192 lakh persons in 2001-02.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. In fact, the sector has emerged as a vibrant constituent of the economy and is well equipped to face the challenge of liberalisation. A Comprehensive Policy Package announced in August, 2000 contains several measures to further strengthen this sector both domestically and globally. The SSI sector has been assigned an important role in employment generation during the Tenth Five Year Plan. In the context of the announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister for generating 50 million additional jobs in the country during this period, the SSI sector has been assigned the task of creating 4.4 million additional jobs.

Items Reserved for SSI

†1781. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.